

I would also argue that if CW was a critical part of the Homeland Security, Amateur Radio Operators would have mandatory drills involving Morse Code, and yearly testing of operators to ensure that code skills are retained. Present FCC rules mandate that an operator pass the test *once* in order to receive credit. Unless that operator maintains regular CW conversations, I would doubt that 10 years after passing the exam, that the operator could pass it again.

Morse Code is nothing more than a means to communicate. Knowing CW does not add technical knowledge, nor complements on-air behavior with other operators. CW knowledge will not assist in antenna designs, will not help with RF-based computer networks, and will not save the United States in a disaster.

Conclusion

I urge the Commission to decline RM-10869 on the grounds that CW is merely a communications mode, and it is not a communications standard, nor is it critical to Homeland Security.

Thank you for your attention.

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